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The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



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for
Blues**

Issue No. 51

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New boss looks back on a smooth takeover at the helm

Patient Smillie takes his chance

By Neil Smillie

THE Bristol City match last Saturday marked the end of my first month as Wanderers' caretaker manager and manager since John Gregory's departure to Aston Villa.

Having been at Gillingham it was exciting to manage Wycombe against Gillingham in my first game in charge of the team again.

When Alan Smith left the Blues in October 1996, I'll never forget that fantastic night against Rotherham, which was my first time at the helm, when the lads came back from 2-0 down to win 4-2. The atmosphere was terrific under floodlights and the supporters really got behind the players.

The Gillingham match at Adams Park this season saw the lads really play for each other and earn three vital points, thanks to captain, Keith Ryan's glancing header from Dave Carroll's excellently executed free kick. Ade Akinbiyi was a constant threat for Gillingham, but was kept at bay by our hard-working defensive unit.

Our next match against York City was on a very wet and windy night at Adams Park when the commitment of the players was unquestionable. Rhino popped up from the back in the second half to slam home the winner.

Our away trip to Luton brought a critical away point, and more importantly kept our unbeaten run going. Martin Taylor kept a clean sheet for the

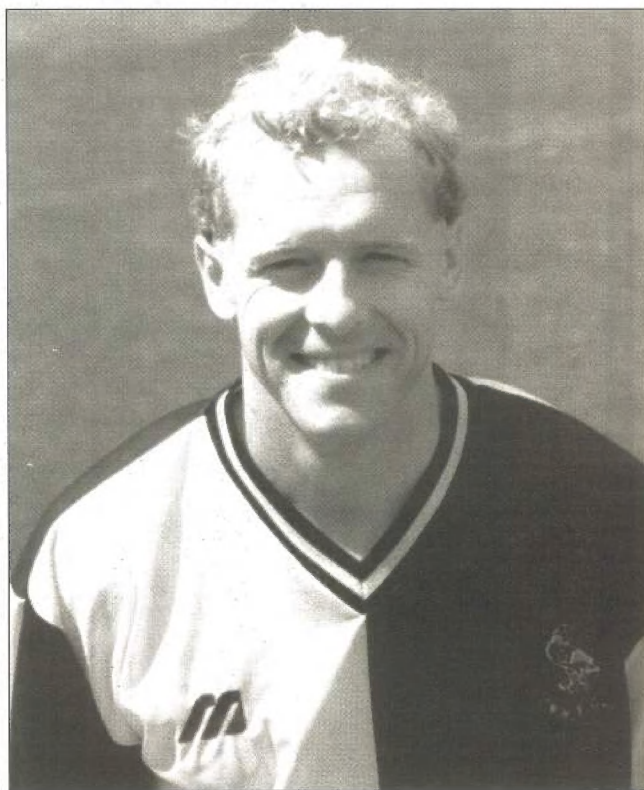
third successive match, which was as much a tribute to the whole team as it was to Martin.

The Plymouth match hinged on a few key moments. Firstly, Martin pulled off, what were in my opinion, two world class saves. Then Rhino headed us in front from a cross from Steve Brown before Richard Logan was sent off for bringing down Mark Stallard from behind outside the box. Just before half-time Plymouth were fortunate not to have the goal disallowed after Martin clearly had the ball kicked out of his hands. Fortunately the lads produced a champagne second half performance knocking in four unanswered goals, taking us to tenth.

The 2-0 defeat at Wrexham was not a true reflection. The fact that the Wrexham goalkeeper, Andy Marriott was named the man-of-the-match tells the whole story. The injury to Michael Forsyth was a major blow, as was not getting at least a point.

In my first five matches the second time round I was set a target of 15 points out of 36 by chairman Ivor Beeks and I'll be looking to get as many points between now and the end of the season.

Thank you for your support, I hope as many of you as possible will be supporting the players at Dean Court tomorrow.



New man in charge: Neil Smillie's got the job until the end of the season

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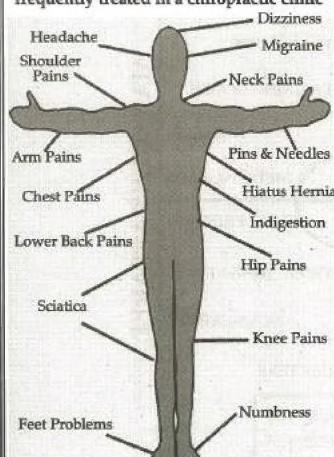
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Chocks away for our Easter offers

COMMERCIAL BREAK
By Mark Austin

WITH six Nationwide matches left it is still mathematically possible to make the play-offs.

We have three home and three away matches left. We start tomorrow at Dean Court against Bournemouth, before we entertain Grimsby for the first time ever at Adams Park on Good Friday (ko 3pm).

Our chairman Ivor Beeks decided that Friday April 10 would be a Mufti Day. The Board have contacted Grimsby and asked them to take part in the Bank Holiday fun. Any child under 16 wearing a kids home Verco replica shirt will get in for free. Don't worry if you do not have a shirt, because it will only cost your kids £1 to get a seat or to stand on the terraces as it's the Blues last Quid-A-Kid day of the season. As per normal we have extended the offer to away fans.

On Easter Sunday we travel to Boundary Park to take on Oldham hoping to complete a league double over them. Then on Saturday, April 18, we host Millwall at Adams Park. This match is all-ticket for away fans only.

The following Saturday, April 25, last season's FA Cup semi-finalists Chesterfield visit Adams Park. Chesterfield started well, but have struggled in the league since the New Year. Finally we travel to the Bescot Stadium to take on Walsall in the last scheduled league match of the season on Saturday, May 2, 1998.

Then, on Saturday, August 15 league football starts again.



Winner: Sales and Marketing manager Mark Austin presents Vicky Chown with her first prize of an executive box for the Chesterfield match on April 25, as a result of the free season ticket holders draw.

IN SHORT

Lucky winners

WYCOMBE Wanderers would like to thank Keith Blagborough, Secretary of the Official Blues Supporters Association for drawing the winners in the free season ticket holders half time draw.

First prize, an executive box for 12 for the Chesterfield match, was won by Vicky Chown of Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere who sits in Block P of the ServisPak Stand.

Second prize winner Mr Stephen Pill of Littlewood, Stokenchurch, a season ticket holder in Block S of the ServisPak took up his guest hospitality prize for four at last Saturday's Bristol City match at Adams Park.

Third prize, a mascot package for next season was won by Miss Sophie Lunn of Riders Way, Chinnor, Oxon. She is a junior season ticket holder.

Fourth prize, Dave Carroll's shirt signed by all the players, was won by Mr C Hardy of Chalfont Road, Seer Green.

Fifth prize, a 1998/99 junior season ticket was won by Paul Gryckiewicz who sits in the Bucks Free Press Family Stand.

Home help

THE football club is looking for accommodation for its 16-year-old YTS boys.

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For more information contact Wanderers' youth development officer Adrian Cole on (01494) 472100 at the club between 11am and 3pm.

What's happened to disappearing fans?

Dear Supporter,
Are you one of the invisible Wanderers supporters? You know what I mean, you tell people gleefully about Smillie's great revival and you are able to make yourself invisible at 3pm on Saturday afternoons.

It is a wonderful trick. You do not need to buy a ticket in advance to save the quid, you save £8 by not turning up!

And of course you need not buy a shirt either. It is the perfect solution, except for one thing.

If you are not there you cannot experience the electricity, the buzz and the excitement when the Blues are on a winning streak.

It is a necessary part of watching live football that some games are, well, frankly boring. If you do not witness the lows you cannot possibly experience the highs.

The three successive games when we failed to score (Carlisle, Brentford and Northampton) made the win over Burnley in the next game all the better.

Losing at Bristol Rovers was made bearable by the sweetness of victories over Gillingham and York in the recent two home games.

The excellently ground out nil-nil point at Luton was crowned by the 5-1 demolition of Plymouth Argyle after the visitors could have gone into the lead.

The ritual of reading, no studying, the paper over breakfast on Sunday morning was so pleasant. The Blues shot up the table by four positions to tenth, and

LETTER TO A SUPPORTER By finance director Graham Peart

on to the respectability of page one on Teletext.

A magnificent victory which will go down in folklore. Stallard's first and the expression of relief personally shared by all, amazement at Taylor's two "impossible" saves, Scottie's wonder goal, Mohan's header off the line via the underside of the bar all followed by more goals and near misses. Wonderful entertainment.

Then I study the other games and gates. Despite the 5,508 attendance being above our average of 5,350 there were only two other Division Two matches with fewer spectators, Wigan and Grimsby. The gates at Bristol, Fulham and Watford were all over 10,000.

There must have been at least 15,000 people in the town the following week saying what a great game it was at the Wanderers on Saturday. Some 10,000 of them must have the gift of being invisible on Saturday afternoons.

The Family Stand is nearly overflowing with children. It will not be long before there are more young supporters than adults. This is great news, but we need the invisible adults to re-appear as well.

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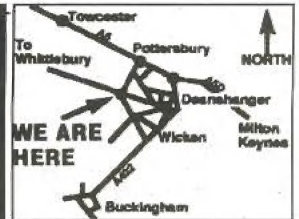
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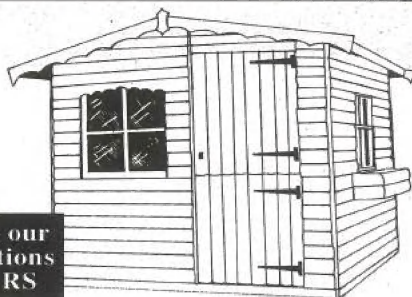
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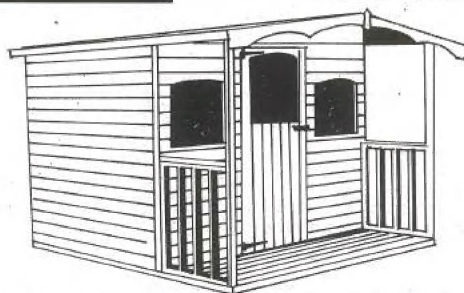
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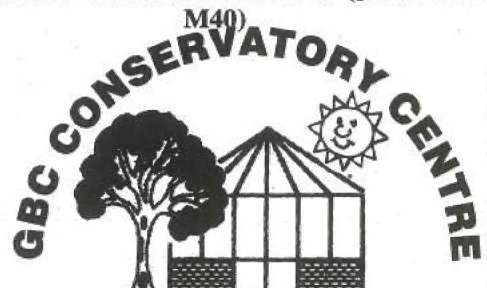
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This job's no nine-to-five

I WAS lucky enough to be offered a job within the sales and marketing department here at Adams Park and have now 'survived' my first month, although having to have my photograph taken on the pitch in front of 5,500 people was quite an experience on my first day.

I know so many people see their dream job as working in the commercial department of a football club, but before joining I thought it would be an office job like any other.

But that is definitely not the case. It certainly is not a nine-to-five, with everyone willing to put in the extra effort required as they all have a genuine affection for the club.

I have to admit that I had not visited

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ...

Claire Ramsden
WWFC Assistant Sales &
Marketing Manager

Adams Park prior to my job interviews and it was a pleasant surprise to say the least when I drove into the car park.

No-one could fail to be impressed with the great facilities here, not only the stadium, bars and function suites but fortunately for me, the offices too.

On meeting our chairman he stressed to me that this is a family club for fans and staff alike and it is true. This makes for a very friendly atmosphere to work in and makes getting out of bed a whole lot easier on these cold mornings.

A big thank you to everyone at Adams Park for making me feel so welcome.

It was a great time to join Wycombe Wanderers with the team enjoying such a good run, unbeaten in four of the first four games I have seen.

The first game after starting my employment was the 1-0 win against Gillingham and everyone was so thrilled to see Neil Smillie get off to such a flying start.

I'm told that the recent Plymouth Argyle game was one of the most entertaining matches the Blues have had since joining the League, it has certainly been a memorable few weeks.

It must affect all staff, not just the playing side, when the team does lose at Adams Park, but hopefully it will be quite a time before I experience that.



JASON KAVANAGH



EXCELLENT: Ian Simpimba was chosen as the ServisPak Centre of Excellence Player of the Year by Blues boss Neil Smillie and youth development officer Adrian Cole. The U15s associate schoolboy is pictured being presented with his award on the Adams Park pitch.



Favourite: Steve Brown voted for by the fans

The fans favour Brown

Midfielder picks up monthly award

HE'S become a popular figure at Adams Park over the last four years and last month the supporters again gave him their backing.

Blues midfielder Steve Brown was named Supporters Player of the Month for February.

The likeable Blues hard man was voted as the fans favourite and was presented with a bottle of bubbly by Verco managing director Derek Vere.

The player joined Wycombe at the beginning of 1994 from Northampton Town and his friendly manner and sometimes interesting comments have won him a place in the fans' hearts.

He recently attempted to win a place in the Jamaican World Cup squad, but his

bid was not successful.

Brownie's Mark Your Man sponsors are Paul and Alan Gillott (h) and Ann Cohen & Co Solicitors (s).

Meanwhile, in the youth team, Martin Lee is making an impression.

The player won the Youth Team Player of the Month Award for February, sponsored by Lucozade Sport, and was presented with his award by Chris Walters and Mark Newell from the Walters Group, who are official sponsors of the youth team.

Lee was picked by Blues boss Neil Smillie and is a talented YTS midfielder player who has just gained representative honours for the FA Youth XI.

He plays regularly for both Wanderers youth team and the reserves in the Capital League.



Steve Brown: Celebrating with team-mates



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Good end is certain

Blues have exciting last games

THE position of Neil Smillie could be enhanced to a full time appointment come the end of the season.

Since taking over from John Gregory he has led the team to some very good results, the best a 5-1 win over Plymouth Argyle.

Looking at the remaining fixtures for the season it promises to be an exciting climax with four of the teams currently above us in the table and two below.

Our first encounter for April comes tomorrow at Dean Court, Bournemouth.

Previous meetings suggest that AFC have the sign over us as we have recorded only one victory at Dean Court and none at home. They are a club who have managed their affairs well, only paying what they can afford.

Manager, Mel Machin, has organised them into a tough team to beat, especially at home.

Already through to Wembley in the Auto-Windscreen Final it is still possible for them to make the play-offs.

The Easter programme is a real tough one. On Good Friday, Grimsby Town make their first ever visit to Adams Park.

Relegated last season they have been one of the front runners in the top six all season. They play very good football as we saw on our visit early in December.

This will be a carnival atmosphere with the multi day in operation, the match will be a real tester for the Blues.

On Easter Monday, we make our first visit to Oldham Athletic, another of the relegated sides from last season, who have slipped out of the top six recently.

Like ourselves, they do not travel well but at home have only lost once this season.

A LOOK AHEAD By Alan Hutchinson

If we are to make higher progress in the table then these two games over Easter are very important to that end.

On Saturday, April 18 Millwall come to Adams Park for what will be a bummer in terms of commitment.

Our defeat at the Den just before Christmas was unfortunate and everyone will be up for the home game.

Currently, the Lions are just below us in the table with games in hand so it is important we take all three points on the day.

The following Saturday, April 25, Chesterfield will be at Adams Park. Yet another of the sides we lost to by the only goal.

Also this was a harsh defeat, more so as the referee disallowed what looked like a perfectly good goal by Jason Kavanagh.

The Spireites started the season like a train remaining in the top three for weeks. Now, they are just above us in the table and three points should be for the taking in our last home game of the season.

Our trip to Walsall on Saturday, May 2 will be the last game of the season.

A club that has just been put up for sale by the chairman, they are hovering just below us and above the relegation area.

With games in hand they still have a chance of overhauling us, and so a result of some sort is important for Wycombe.

As these notes are written it is hard to determine where we will finally finish in the table but it is certain we shall be playing Division Two football next season.



Marked man: Steve McGavin is sponsored

Put money on our men

THERE are still a few players up for grabs in the club's Mark Your Man scheme.

Current sponsors are: Neil Smillie, The Blues Supporters Club (01494) 563697 - H&A; Dave Jones - available; Martin Taylor - George & Matthew MacKenzie (H), Coach No.1, The Blues Supporters Club (A); Brian Parkin - available; Nicky Mohan - Phil Turner (H), Richard Vere (A); Paul McCarthy - Denzil, Margaret & Andrew Ashcroft (H&A); Michael Forsyth - Bucks Auto Components (H); Jason Kavanagh - Bill & Sheila at The Disraeli Arms (01494) 525760 (H); Jason Coultine - The Royal Oak, Great Kingshill (01494) 711199 (H); Christine Bye (A); Steve Brown - Paul & Alan Gillott (H); Ann Cohen & Co., Solicitors (01494)

577420 (A); Dave Carroll - Elaine Blake (H), Alan & Kathy Hutchinson (A); Keith Ryan - Link Precision Services (01844) 347062 (H&A); John Cornforth - Quality Heating Services Ltd (01494) 538488 (H&A); Michael Simpson - available; Steve McGavin - Sharon Healey (H), Selma Perrin (A); Mark Stallard - Vince's Table (H); Paul Reed - Graphic Arts Supplies Ltd (H&A); Aaron Patton - available; Alan Beeton - Sharon & Gary Trimby (H); Maurice Harkin - Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club (H); Frances Carroll - available; Lewis Craker - available; Ben Hodgson - available; Gary Wright - available; Keith Scott - Catherine Worboys (H), Alan, Michael & Richard (A).

Whisky is still on offer

WYCOMBE Wanderers are offering their supporters their own branded Scotch Whisky by the bottle or by the case on a mail-order basis.

Initially, the club is offering a Special Reserve Blend at £19.99 and a 12 year old Deluxe Blend at £26.99 (excluding carriage of £3.50 per bottle).

There is a 25 per cent discount if you order a case of 12, plus the carriage cost for a case is £9.50, less than 80p per bottle.

A case of Special Reserve Blend costs just £179.91, whereas a case of the 12 Year Old Deluxe Blend costs £262.91.

All the above prices are without VAT added on.

If you would like to see these bottles on display, they can be seen at both Wanderers in Town and in the Centre Spot Public House at Adams Park. For enquiries after 6pm Monday to Saturday call (01494) 473689.

These Scotch Whiskys are distilled at the Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William, Scotland, which is one of the few remaining independent distilleries in Scotland today.

The Special Reserve Blend and the 12 Year Old Deluxe Blend have strengths of 40 per cent alcohol by volume.

Please note these products can not be obtained in any shops in the UK and the Wycombe Wanderers label is exclusive to Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

Order forms are available from the Wanderers in Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre (opposite Littlewoods), the Centre Spot Public House, the commercial offices at Adams Park or by ringing (01494) 472100.

Who knows what will have happened next time I write?

THIS article is being written two weeks before it gets published. I mention that fact because events move so quickly nowadays that what is in the news then can be rapidly overtaken.

Whenever I start to put pen to paper another big club seems to be having a problem and in particular, with the way they treat their supporters.

Today, it's Newcastle United and the members of their board. What they get up to in their spare time is their affair, but the way they talk about their fans and the contemptuous way they think of them is an absolute disgrace.

So I might add is the revelation, which we have all suspected but has not been proved, of the way they fleece them by charging inflated prices for the team strip.

Remember a certain business man called Gerald Ratner who described his products as 'crap' and laughed at his customers for buying them?

He was very quickly out of a job. And now, so are those directors.

Since last month we have a new manager, who has got a vote of confidence from just about everyone at the club.

No puns about smiles, but the style and spirit which the team seem to have rediscovered has certainly found favour amongst the supporters. This is perhaps illustrated by the fact that the coach

BLUES SUPPORTERS CLUB By Keith Blagbrough

bookings for Wrexham just before the Plymouth match were only a handful.

Just after, we had filled two coaches. That is why we were delighted that Neil accepted our invitation to be our guest of honour at the Blues Supporters Annual Dinner this year.

The after dinner speaker will be our President, Alan Parry, who has gained quite a formidable reputation for his skills in this area.

The dinner will be on Friday, April 24, the evening before the last home match at Adams Park, starting at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. You can pick up your booking form from Rena in the foyer of the Vere Suite before and after home matches, any committee member or the Commercial Office.

There are only three away matches left, so don't forget that the Blues Supporters club run coaches to all our away matches.

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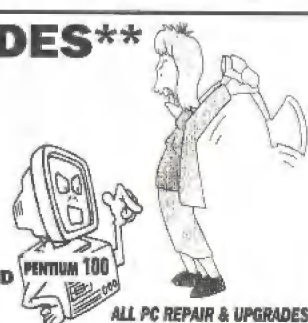
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Community work gains interest

How scheme is having a real effect

COMMUNITY NEWS
By Nas and Dave

HELLO everyone, let us start by wishing you all a happy Easter.

We have a busy Easter period ourselves having 150 boys and girls on the first of two Easter weeks, and more than 100 on the second week, April 14 to 17.

Our courses are gaining more interest and our numbers are going up each time we run a course, this can only tell us that we are putting on professional, fun, soccer courses that are excellent value for money.

The feedback we get from the parents is excellent and is one reason why I think come the summer holidays, the numbers are going to be even better on our five week course.

Parents talk to each other and most of our new course members are recommended by someone who has been to one before.

Our summer courses will run with the World Cup Finals so we think with England's presence in France the interest will be excellent.

We have also started our Saturday morning mini soccer, we have three running at the moment at Cressex School, 10am to noon; Hamilton School, 9.30am to 11.30am; Beacon Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am, all costing £3 per session.

These are getting very popular because you don't have to book, just turn up in the morning, book your child in, go shopping then pick them up in two hours time knowing they are safe and having fun.

Before we finish, we would like to congratulate Neil Smillie and his players for some excellent results and performances. Keep up the good work Neil.

The pigeon header Cole won't forget



Adrian Cole

Personal details

Full Name: Adrian Cole
Date of Birth: April 4, 1954
Home: Ickenham
Car: Mondeo
Married: Yes
Children: Four
Dad's job: Retired
Brothers and sisters: One brother, two sisters

Questions and answers

What was your ambition as a child?
To play football.

What is your ambition now?
To develop the youth policy into a major force.

Who was your boyhood hero?
Rodney Marsh.

What is your saddest moment in football?
Damaging my knee at only 28.

Who is the greatest player there has ever been?
Pele.

What is the funniest moment you have seen on a football pitch?
A short-sighted player diving to head away a pigeon that flew across the pitch in front of him.

What was your most embarrassing moment in football?
Being tackled by a supporter after beating the full-back.

Which team did you support as a boy?
QPR.

What is your favourite ground?
Old Trafford.

What other sports and hobbies do you enjoy?
Golf.

What really annoys you in football?
Some people's behaviour at children's matches.

What are your pet hates outside football?
Bad drivers.

Favourites

TV Programme: All sports

Food: Seafood

Drink: Guinness

Film: The Commitments

Compiled by Steve Hayes

Win executive box for year

WYCOMBE Wanderers are offering you the chance to win an executive box at Adams Park for the whole of the 1998/99 season.

All you have to do to enter is have an executive box day let at Adams Park and pay a small surcharge.

Any person or company renting an executive box during this season at the normal rates can enter by simply paying £50 extra.

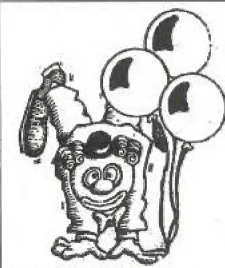
Every entrant will receive free room hire for a day, a public address announcement and inclusion on the Adams Park roll of honour which will be published in the matchday programme and the Blues News during the 1998/99 season.

Participants will also be given one free entry into a draw to win an executive box for ten for all friendly, league and cup matches at Adams Park next season.

If a company pays for five boxes and five surcharges, then it will get five free entries into the draw, which will take place at half-time during the Chesterfield match on Saturday, April 25.

This prize also includes four car park passes, use of the Woodlands executive lounge and free entry for ten to all reserve and youth team league matches at Adams Park next season.

Annual executive box rental at Adams Park is currently £10,000 per box per season, so why not have a great day out in one of Wycombe Wanderers excellent boxes, enjoy the additional benefits on offer and enter the free draw. The closing date for entries is Friday, April 24.



KIDS STUFF: Bassetbury Balloons are the official creche sponsor at Adams Park

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This voucher entitles you to a free four minute sun-tan session in our unique stand up tanning room.

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£4**

A four minute session is equivalent to twenty minutes on a turbo bed. One voucher per customer.

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Save £130 on RRP!**

Both courses must be booked at the same time.

Do you want to lose up to 9 inches for the Summer. Just look what the Experts think below, 17 minutes of the most effective inch busting technology. It tones, tightens and burns fat. All this while you lie back and relax. A course of ten can leave you up to 9 inches slimmer and visibly more toned.

arasys - THE INCH LOSS SYSTEM

Perfect for professionals, the Arasys Inch Loss System is a unique Inch Loss treatment that works in only 17 minutes. One session of Arasys is equivalent to 300 sit-ups or 400 buttock raises.

For the man or woman who enjoys vigorous exercise but doesn't always have the time ... for the slimmer keen to see fast encouraging results ... for anyone who loathes the hard work of exercise ... Arasys is the answer!



"It was great, I just loved having the treatments which weren't uncomfortable at all. Afterwards I felt absolutely brilliant, especially when I was able to pull on my Levi's for the first time in ages. It would be a great kick start to a healthy living regime or before a beach holiday. Try it and see!"

and three quarters from my hips and bottom and an inch from each thigh ... I felt more toned too, as if I'd been following an exercise programme."



"I have always been cynical about salon treatments that claim to tone you up and give you inch-loss ... As far as toning goes, I'm a convert, I lost one and a half inches from my waist, one

and three quarters from my hips and bottom and an inch from each thigh ... I felt more toned too, as if I'd been following an exercise programme."



"For those suffering from gym burn-out, Arasys offers the perfect toning alternative. While you relax on the beauty couch, 24 carefully placed electrical pads work slack muscles to astounding effect, and all within

ten half-hour sessions ... After only four sessions the bottom became higher, the thighs tighter and the waistband looser ... With Arasys it took two weeks to achieve, in a gym it would have taken two months."

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WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB



The Impressive Adams Park Stadium

Wycombe Wanderers Mufti Day

Admission Prices:

	Match Tickets On Day (No discount on matchday)	Match Tickets In Advance (Prior to matchday)
AMERSHAM & WYCOMBE COLLEGE STAND		
VP's (Block D)	£25	£25
Adults	£14	£13
Senior Citizens	£13	£12
Juniors & Students	£12	£11
SERVISPAK STAND UPPER TIER		
Blocks N, P & Q		
Adults	£14	£13
Senior Citizens	£13	£12
Juniors & Students	£12	£11
Blocks L, M, R & S		
Adults	£12	£11
Senior Citizens	£11	£10
Juniors & Students	£10	£9
Blocks K & T		
Adults	£10	£9
Senior Citizens	£9	£8
Juniors & Students	£8	£7
BUCKS FREE PRESS FAMILY ENCLOSURE		
Adults	£10	£9
Senior Citizens	£8	£7
Juniors & Students	£6	£5
AXA EQUITY & LAW STAND - TERRACE		
Adults	£9	£8
Senior Citizens	£7	£6
Juniors & Students	£6	£5

All tickets purchased prior to the match day for £1 will be refunded on entrance when wearing a W.W.F.C. home team shirt.

Offer applies to one home game for children under 16:

Friday 10th April
Wycombe v Grimsby
3pm Kick-Off

To book call in at Wanderers In Town or Adams Park Commercial Offices or call the Ticket Hotline.

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